

Claims:

1. An apparatus for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said apparatus comprising:
 - a) an input for receiving a signal indicative of a measurement of a health
5 characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - b) a processing unit coupled to said input, said processing unit being operative for processing said signal to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - 10 c) an output for releasing the data indicative of the action for causing the change in the likelihood of the certain outcome.
2. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the health characteristic is modifiable.
- 15 3. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the data derived by the processing unit is indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified such as to cause the change in the likelihood of the certain outcome.
4. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the measurement of the health
20 characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a fetus.
5. An apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein the measurement of the health
25 characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a pregnant woman.
6. An apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein said processing unit is adapted for:
 - a) processing the signal indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic to
derive a data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - 30 b) deriving data indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified such as to cause a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome at least in part on the basis of:

- i. the data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - ii. the signal indicative of the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient.
- 5 7. An apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of a measurement of a uterine cervix.
8. An apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein the measurement of the uterine cervix is a measurement of the ripeness of the cervix, said certain outcome being
10 indicative of a delivery by cesarean section.
9. An apparatus as defined in claim 8, wherein the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified is indicative of a treatment for affecting the ripeness of the cervix.
- 15 10. An apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the output releases a signal suitable for displaying on a display screen the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified.
- 20 11. An apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein the output releases a signal suitable for causing a printing device to display in printed format the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified.
12. An apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the measurement of the health
25 characteristic is indicative of the patient's blood type.
13. An apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of the patient's disease status.
- 30 14. An apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of a measurement of the patient's body temperature.

15. A method for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said method comprising:
- a) receiving a signal indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - 5 b) processing said signal to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - c) releasing the data indicative of the action for causing the change in the likelihood of the certain outcome.
- 10 16. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the health characteristic is modifiable.
17. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein said data is indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified such as to cause the change in the likelihood of the certain outcome.
- 15 18. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a fetus.
- 20 19. A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a pregnant woman.
20. A method as defined in claim 15, further comprising:
- 25 a) processing said signal indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic to derive a data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - b) deriving data indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified such as to cause a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome at least in part on the basis of:
 - 30 i. the data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - ii. the signal indicative of the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient.

21. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of a measurement of a uterine cervix.
- 5 22. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein the measurement of the uterine cervix is a measurement of the ripeness of the uterine cervix, the certain outcome being indicative of a delivery by cesarean section.
- 10 23. A method as defined in claim 22, wherein the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified is indicative of a treatment for affecting the ripeness of the cervix.
- 15 24. A method as defined in claim 17, comprising releasing a signal suitable for causing a display screen to display the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified.
- 20 25. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein the output releases a signal suitable for causing a printing device to display in printed format the data indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified.
26. An apparatus as defined in claim 20, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of the patient's blood type.
- 25 27. An apparatus as defined in claim 20, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of the patient's disease status.
28. An apparatus as defined in claim 20, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of a measurement of the patient's body temperature.
- 30 29. A computer readable storage medium including a program element suitable for execution by a computing apparatus, said computing apparatus comprising a

memory unit and a processor, said program element when executing on said processor being adapted for:

- 5 a) processing a data element indicative of an action for causing a health characteristic of an obstetrics patient to be modified, the data element being generated according to the method described in claim 15;
- b) conveying information to a user on either one of a display screen or in paper format, the information being derived at least in part on the basis of the data element processed in a) and being indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of a certain characteristic to be modified.

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30. A computer readable storage medium including a program element suitable for execution by a computing apparatus for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said computing apparatus comprising:

- 15 a) a memory unit;
- b) a processor operatively connected to said memory unit, said program element when executing on said processor being operative for:
 - i. receiving a signal indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - 20 ii. processing said signal to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - iii. releasing the data indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of the certain outcome to be modified.

25 31. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 30, wherein said data is indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified such as to cause the change in the likelihood of the certain outcome.

30 32. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 30, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a fetus.

33. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 30, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient is indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of a pregnant woman.
- 5 34. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 31, said program element when executing on said processor being operative for:
- a) processing said signal to derive a data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - b) deriving data indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be
10 modified such as to cause a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome at least in part on the basis of:
 - i. the data element indicative of the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - ii. the signal indicative of the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient.
- 15 35. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the measurement of the health characteristic is indicative of a measurement of a uterine cervix.
- 20 36. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 34, wherein the measurement of the uterine cervix is a measurement of the ripeness of the uterine cervix, said certain outcome being indicative of a delivery by cesarean section.
37. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 36, wherein the data
25 indicative of the action for causing the health characteristic to be modified is indicative of a treatment for modifying the ripeness of the cervix.
38. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 31, wherein said program
30 element when executing on said processor is operative for: releasing a signal suitable for causing a display screen to display the data indicative of an action, the action causing the health characteristic to be modified.

39. A computer readable storage medium as defined in claim 31, wherein said program element when executing on said processor is operative for releasing a signal suitable for causing a printing device to display in printed format the data indicative of an action for causing the health characteristic to be modified.

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40. A system for monitoring an obstetrics patient, comprising:

- a) an interface for receiving a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
- 10 b) an apparatus comprising:
 - i. an input for receiving a signal indicative of the measurement of the health characteristic of the obstetrics patient;
 - ii. a processing unit coupled to said input, said processing unit being operative for processing said signal to derive data indicative of an action
 - 15 for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - iii. an output coupled to said processing unit, said output being suitable for releasing an output signal for causing a display unit to display information derived on the basis of the data indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of the certain outcome to be modified;
- 20 c) a display unit coupled to the output of said apparatus, said display unit being responsive to the output signal to display the information derived on the basis of the data indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of the certain outcome to be modified.

25 41. A system as defined in claim 40, wherein the interface could be a user interface selected from a keyboard, a pointing device, a touch sensitive screen, and a voice recognition unit.

42. A system as defined in claim 40, wherein said display unit is either one of a display
30 screen and a printing device.

43. A server system for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said server system storing a program element for execution by a CPU, said program element comprising:
- a) a first program element component for receiving a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - b) a second program element component for processing said measurement to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - c) a third program element component for causing the data indicative of the action to be conveyed to a user.
44. A client-server system for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said client-server system comprising a client system and a server system, said client system and said server system operative to exchange messages over a data network, said server system storing a program element for execution by a CPU, said program element comprising:
- a) a first program element component executed on said server system for receiving a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - b) a second program element component executed on said server system for processing said measurement to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - c) a third program element component executed on said server system for sending messages to said client system for causing said client system to display information on the basis of the data indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of the certain outcome to be modified;
 - d) a fourth program element component executed on said client server system for receiving a message from said server system for displaying the information to a user.
45. A client-server system as defined in claim 44, wherein said fourth program element is adapted for causing the information to be displayed on a display screen.

46. A client-server system as defined in claim 44, wherein said fourth program element is adapted for causing the information to be displayed on a printed medium.
- 5 47. A client-server system as defined in claim 44, wherein the data network is the Internet.
48. An apparatus for monitoring an obstetrics patient, said apparatus comprising:
- 10 a) means for receiving a signal indicative of a measurement of a health characteristic of the obstetrics patient, the measurement being associated with a likelihood of a certain outcome;
 - b) means for processing said signal to derive data indicative of an action for causing a change in the likelihood of the certain outcome;
 - 15 c) means for releasing the data indicative of the action for causing the likelihood of the certain characteristic to be modified.